

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOGADI 01488 301144Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----111805 301148Z /53

P R 301055Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5230
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1488

EXDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SO, ET, EG, SA
SUBJ: SIAD AND EPRP IN ADDIS

REF: MOGADISCIO 1485

SUMMARY: SIAD HAS FOR SOME TIME MAINTAINED CONTACTS WITH EPRP IN ADDIS. HE BELIEVES THAT EPRP IS MOST LIKELY SUCCESSOR MENGISTU REGIME AND WILL ACCOMMODATE SOMALI TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS IN ETHIOPIA. EVIDENTLY NEITHER EGYPTIANS NOR SAUDIS VIEW POSSIBILITY OF EPRP GOVERNMENT IN ADDIS WITH SUSPICION. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SAUDIS, EGYPTIANS AND SOMALIS SHARE SOME COMMON ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT FUTURE POLITICAL CONFIGURATION OF HORN. WE NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT SIAD'S TALKS WITH SAUDIS. END SUMMARY

1. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR KHAIRAT HAS TALKED WITH SIAD ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS OVER PAST MONTH. MOST RECENT TALKS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOGADI 01488 301144Z

WERE ON AUGUST 27 AND 28 PRIOR SIAD'S DEPARTURE FOR MOSCOW. I HAD LONG TALK WITH AMB. KHAIRAT AT RESIDENCE ON AUGUST 29.

2. ON AUGUST 27, SIAD COMPLAINED OF LACK OF US WEAPONS HELP IN CURRENT EMERGENCY AND ATTRIBUTED IT TO US SUPPORT FOR EDU AND ITS HOPE THAT EDU, TOGETHER WITH PRO-AMERICAN

ELEMENTS IN ADDIS HIERARCHY, MIGHT FORM SUCCESSOR REGIME TO MENGISTU. SIAD BELIEVES US MISTAKEN. WHILE HE IS CONVINCED MENGISTU REGIME WILL FALL -- AND AMBASSADOR KHAIRAT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SIAD'S PRESENT GOAL IS AS MUCH TO TOPPLE MENGISTU AS TO TAKE SOMALI LANDS IN ETHIOPIA -- HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT EDU WILL REPLACE MENGISTU. HE IS CONVINCED ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (EPRP) IS MOST LIKELY SUCCESSOR TO MENGISTU.

3. SIAD HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR KHAIRAT THAT HE HAS HAD CONTACTS WITH ELEMENTS ON EPRP FOR SOME TIME. ON BASIS OF THOSE CONTACTS, HE IS CONVINCED THAT HE CAN NEGOTIATE A SOLUTION TO OGADEN PROBLEMS WITH ANY EPRP-LED GOVERNMENT IN ADDIS. HE BELIEVES THAT EPRP MARXISTS ARE MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL GROUP IN ETHIOPIA AND DRAW SUPPORT FROM WORKERS, PEASANTS, CIVIL SERVANTS AS WELL AS MILITARY. EPRP LEADERSHIP WOULD BE AMENABLE TO POLITICAL SOLUTION TO SIAD'S ETHIOPIAN CLAIMS.

4. SIAD TOLD KHAIRAT THAT ALTHOUGH EPRP LEADER IN ADDIS HAD RECENTLY BEEN LIQUIDATED BY MENGISTU FORCES (HAILU FIDA?), NEVERTHELESS EPRP RETAINED ITS STRENGTH IN ADDIS, ALTHOUGH IT HAD GONE UNDERGROUND.

5. SIAD ALSO CONFIDED TO AMBASSADOR KHAIRAT THAT MENGISTU'S MEN HAD RECENTLY ASSAULTED SOMALI AMBASSADOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOGADI 01488 301144Z

IN ADDIS, AS WELL AS SOMALI DIPLOMATIC COURIER, AND HAD SEIZED SOMALI DIPLOMATIC BAG. THIS WAS THIRD TIME SOMALI DIPLOMATIC POUCH TAKEN FROM COURIER. IN RECENT INCIDENT, BAG CONTAINED TOP SECRET DOCUMENTS WHICH GAVE DETAILS ON EPRP ORGANIZATION IN ETHIOPIA WITH WHOM SOMALIS HAD BEEN IN CONTACT. (SIAD ALSO SAID THAT HIS OWN ADVISORS HAD RECOMMENDED THAT SOMALI SERVICES IN MOGADISCIO ROUGH UP ETHIOPIAN CHARGE AND SEIZE ETHIOPIAN DIPLOMATIC POUCH BUT THAT HE HAD TOLD HIS ADVISORS THAT HE WOULDN'T PLAY ETHIOPIAN GAME.)

6. ASKED WHAT GOE'S ATTITUDE WAS TOWARDS SIAD'S CONTACTS WITH EPRP -- A MARXIST GROUP TO THE LEFT OF MENGISTU AND ONE TO WHOM THE SOVIETS MIGHT IMMEDIATELY THROW THEIR SUPPORT SHOULD MENGISTU FALL, AMBASSADOR KHAIRAT SAID THAT SADAT WOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE DEALING WITH ETHIOPIAN MARXISTS. ASKED WHETHER SOVIET-SUPPORTED EPRP GOVT IN ADDIS WOULDN'T BE INCONSISTENT WITH SADAT'S PRESENT PURPOSE, WHICH WAS TO GET SOVIETS OUT OF ETHIOPIA AND HORN, AMBASSADOR KHAIRAT SAID THAT SIAD HAD TOLD HIM THAT AFTER SOMALIA OBTAINED HIS GOALS IN OGADEN, BALE AND SIDAMO, (AND ERITREA WAS INDEPENDENT STATE), THEN ANY GOVERNMENT WHICH

RULED OVER ETHIOPIAN RUMP EMPIRE WOULD BE A FRAGILE ONE WHICH SOMALIA AND OTHERS -- PRESUMABLY ARABS IN AREA -- COULD RULE OR OVERRULE AT WILL.

7. ASKED HOW SIAD COULD SQUARE HIS BELIEF IN US SUPPORT FOR EDU WHILE SAUDIS WERE SUPPORTING SOMALI EFFORT WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN AN EPRP GOVERNMENT IN ADDIS, IF THAT WAS WHAT SIAD BELIEVES, KHAIRAT REPLIED IN TERMS OF ANSWER KING KHALID REPORTEDLY GAVE SIAD WHEN ASKED ABOUT SAUDI SUPPORT FOR ERITREANS WHEN SOME WERE MARXISTS: KING KHALID DIDN'T CARE WHETHER THEY WERE MARXISTS OR NOT -- HE WANTED SEPARATE ERITREAN STATE ALONG RED SEA AND SOVIETS OUT OF HORN.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MOGADI 01488 301144Z

8. WHEN IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT SIAD MIGHT BE WRONG IN HIS ASSUMPTION THAT EPRP WOULD SUCCEED MENGISTU (ETHIOPIAN MILITARY RATHER THAN CIVILIAN MARXISTS MIGHT BE MORE LIKELY TO TOPPLE MENGISTU SHOULD REVERSES CONTINUE), AMBASSADOR KHAIRAT SAID SIMPLY THAT EPRP HAD AS MANY GUNS AS ETHIOPIAN MILITARY.

9. COMMENT: MOST INTERESTING ASPECT OF MY TALK WITH AMBASSADOR KHAIRAT WAS APPARENT CANDOUR WITH WHICH SIAD HANDLED MATTER OF HIS RELATIONS WITH EPRP. APPARENTLY NEITHER EGYPTIANS NOR SAUDIS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT IDENTITY OF ANY SUCCESSOR REGIME IN ADDIS. IF THAT IS THE CASE, THEN ONLY CONCLUSION THAT ONE CAN DRAW IS THAT AFTER WSLF AND ELF FORCES HAVE DONE THEIR WORK, CHARACTER OF ADDIS REGIME WILL BE LARGELY IRRELEVANT. SAUDIS, EGYPTIANS AND SOMALIS SEEM TO SHARE SOME COMMON ASSUMPTION ABOUT FUTURE POLITICAL CONFIGURATION OF HORN. AT MINIMUM WE CERTAINLY NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT SIAD'S CONVERSATIONS WITH SAUDIS IN JIDDA.
LOUGHRAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LIBERATION FRONTS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOGADI01488
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770313-0043
Format: TEL
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977089/aaaaagvn.tel
Line Count: 156
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2041e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 MOGADISCIO 1485
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1686823
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIAD AND EPRP IN ADDIS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SO, ET, EG, SA, EPRP, (MOHAMED SIAD BARRE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2041e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009